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# Human Service Center Admission Criteria

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*Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

November 20, 2002

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## Forward

The following criteria define how consumers are matched to the most appropriate levels of care. These are meant to provide a framework and offer guidance for the practitioner when working with consumers of mental health and substance abuse services. Though these guidelines should be followed whenever possible, it is recognized that there will be times when clinical judgement must supercede for the best interests of the consumer.

## REGIONAL INTERVENTION SERVICES

### **SAFETY NET FUNCTIONS:**

1. Regional Intervention Services will provide a safe/secure environment for the consumer.
2. Regional Intervention Services will be accessible and available to the consumer.
3. Regional Intervention Services will offer twenty-four hour per day, seven days per week response.
4. Regional Intervention Services will include screening, assessment, and referral.
5. Staff members will be trained on the RIS function and procedures.
6. Regional Intervention Services will provide family/stakeholder education and referral.
7. Regional Intervention Services will make recommendations during placement decisions.
8. Regional Intervention Services will function as gatekeeper in accordance with NDCC 25-03.1-04 (refer to Appendix A).
9. Region Intervention Services will serve as a communication link with multiple systems.
10. Regional Intervention Services will advocate for the protection of the legal rights of consumers.

### **RIS CRITERIA:**

1. There will be twenty-four hour per day, seven day per week response.
2. Response may be face-to-face or via phone as appropriate.
3. The significance and nature of the crisis will be screened for referral or response.
4. Regional Intervention Services will apply State Hospital admission criteria to admission to the State Hospital or local hospital. This includes screening for voluntary or involuntary placement.
5. Referral to residential if in need of supervision, structure, medication monitoring or social detox (Department Administrative Rule 75-09-03: Refer to Appendix C).
6. Referral for further assessment and treatment services.

## EXTENDED CARE

1. The consumer meets the Medicaid definition of Chronically Mentally Ill (North Dakota Century Code 57-38-01: Refer to Appendix A):

*"Chronically mentally ill" means a person who, as a result of a mental disorder, exhibits emotional or behavioral functioning which is so impaired as to interfere substantially with the person's capacity to remain in the community without verified supportive treatment or services of a long-term or indefinite duration. This mental disability must be severe and persistent, resulting in a long-term limitation of the person's functional capacities for primary activities of daily living such as interpersonal relationships, homemaking, self-care, employment, and recreation.*

2. The consumer has a GAF score less than 50 (unless otherwise clinically indicated: with and without supports. Staff can assign two scores to reflect current functioning with supports and without supports).

There are three sublevels of care for consumers accessing Extended Care services:

1. Medication Only: the consumer is functioning well or functioning at the highest level possible yet is in need of medication/medication review.
2. Case Management/Care Coordination: the consumer requires assistance with obtaining needed services (can be "brokered" or provided by human service center).
3. Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI): Persons whose level of functioning requires multiple services and the involvement of multiple providers to remain in the community.

## CLINICAL SERVICES

- The consumer exhibits a threat of self-harm/suicide or a threat to others.
- There is a threat or reported occurrence of child abuse and neglect.
- There is a risk of or placement in a foster care setting.
- The consumer presents with acute distress and a GAF score of less than 70

## ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

Criteria for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services are found in North Dakota Administrative Code 75-09.

***Social Detoxification Program:*** Admission to a social detoxification program will be made upon a clinical institute withdrawal assessment score greater than ten, but less than nineteen, and the presence of any of the following:

1. Diffuse, mild central nervous system symptoms.
2. Onset of any stated symptoms over a few hours.
3. Intoxication.
4. Absence of other more serious symptoms and absence of suicidal ideations.
5. Presence of physical findings.

***Low Intensity Outpatient:*** for admission, the client shall meet at least one of the following:

1. Few or no symptoms of withdrawal and only stable physical and psychiatric conditions.
2. An environment supportive of recovery efforts.
3. The need to take extended time for evaluation or lacks motivation to make a commitment to a more intensive recovery effort.
4. Completed a higher intensity level of care, but requires continued services until recovery stabilizes.
5. Evidence of a brief return to usage not resulting in significant physical or emotional deterioration.
6. Structured outpatient counseling of an intensity that will meet the client's needs without intensive outpatient placement.
7. Not been through a prior treatment and exhibits motivation for recovery.

***Intensive Outpatient Treatment:*** for admission, the client shall meet at least two of the following:

1. Few or no symptoms of withdrawal and present only stable physical or psychiatric conditions.
2. Impairment in one or more life areas.
3. Willingness to attend all scheduled events.
4. An environment supportive of recovery efforts.
5. Structured outpatient counseling of an intensity that will meet the client's needs without inpatient placement.
6. Unable to sustain sobriety at a lower level of care or through a self-help group.

***Day Treatment:*** for admission, the client shall meet at least two of the following:

1. Low risk for withdrawal symptoms or have minimal remaining withdrawal symptoms.
2. Physically and psychologically stable, but may have a medical or psychiatric condition that would be aggravated by continue use of alcohol or drugs.
3. Previous attempts at a low intensity level of care with an inability to remain sober,
4. Minimal support for sustaining beginning recovery in the home.
5. Significant impairment in life areas that require a high level of intensity.
6. Significant life traumas or stresses that require therapeutic intervention adjunct to addiction treatment.

***Medically Supervised Inpatient Treatment:*** for admission, the client shall meet at least one of the following:

1. Be in need of detoxification from alcohol or drugs or display potential for severe, acute withdrawal.
2. A physical condition impacting immediate safety and well-being.
3. Psychiatric condition impacting immediate safety and well-being.
4. Severe impairment in significant life areas, such as legal, family or work.
5. Significant loss of control and relapse symptoms.
6. Multiple attempts at lower level of intensity with an inability to stay sober.

***Long-term Residential Care Programs:*** for admission, the client shall:

1. High habilitative needs and a social environment nonsupportive of continued recovery.
2. A history of compulsive, relapse-prone chronicity or organic-related difficulties as a result of client's abuse of alcohol or other drugs.
3. Capable of performing self-care and physically and psychologically stable.



## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

To access Level I and Level II services for SED, consumers meet the following definition:

1. Age 18 or less.
2. Diagnosed with an emotional, behavioral, or mental disorder.
3. Placed out-of-home, are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement, or have a Global Assessment of Functioning score (GAF) of 50 or below.
4. Have service needs involving two or more community agencies such as mental health, substance abuse, education, juvenile justice, health, or child welfare.
5. Must have or be expected to have the disorder for one year or more.

Criteria for SED Level II is found in the Universal Application (See Appendix B).

**\*Clarification regarding GAF: score to be with or without supports. Staff can assign two scores to reflect current functioning with supports & GAF without supports.**